

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for generating a presentation describing a recommended course of treatment of at least one healthcare procedure for an individual, the method comprising the steps of:
  - selecting a presentation template for a presentation, the presentation template being configured for display by a presentation tool;
  - incorporating information on each healthcare procedure included in a recommended course of treatment for an individual into the presentation template to generate an intermediate presentation;
  - incorporating healthcare information specific to the individual from a healthcare desktop application into the intermediate presentation to generate a final presentation; and
  - storing the final presentation in the healthcare desktop application.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of initiating with a single action said steps of selecting a presentation template, incorporating information on each healthcare procedure, incorporating healthcare information specific to the individual and storing the final presentation.
3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
  - starting the presentation tool, the presentation tool being configured to create, modify and display presentations; and
  - loading the selected presentation template into the presentation tool.
4. The method of claim 3 further comprising the steps of:
  - adding a plug-in tool bar to the presentation tool, the plug-in tool bar enabling information to be exchanged between the healthcare desktop application and the presentation tool; and
  - editing the final presentation with the plug-in tool bar in the presentation tool.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein said step of editing the final presentation includes the step of adding additional healthcare information specific to the individual from the healthcare desktop application to the final presentation.

6. The method of claim 4 wherein said step of editing the final presentation comprises at least one of the steps of:

- adding other information to the final presentation;
- removing information from the final presentation; and
- changing information in the final presentation.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

generating a list of recommended healthcare procedures for the individual, the recommended healthcare procedures having been previously entered into the healthcare desktop application as being recommended for the individual; and

selecting at least one recommended healthcare procedure from the list of recommended healthcare procedures for inclusion in the recommended course of treatment.

8. The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of automatically selecting, by the healthcare desktop application, all recommended healthcare procedures in the list of recommended healthcare procedures for inclusion in the recommended course of treatment.

9. The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of indicating in the list of recommended healthcare procedures the selected at least one recommended healthcare procedure for inclusion in the recommended course of treatment.

10. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

including in the presentation template general information and an indicator indicating a point of incorporation for the information on each healthcare procedure included in the recommended course of treatment; and

inserting at the indicator in the presentation template the information on each healthcare procedure included in the recommended course of treatment.

11. The method of claim 10 further comprising the step of modifying the presentation template including the general information and the indicator with the presentation tool prior to said step of selecting the presentation template.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of selecting a presentation template includes automatically selecting the presentation template by the healthcare desktop application.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of selecting a presentation template includes the steps of:

generating a plurality of presentation templates with the presentation tool, each presentation template of the plurality of presentation templates being configured for a different type of presentation;

displaying a list of the plurality of presentation templates in the healthcare desktop application; and

selecting the presentation template from the displayed list of the plurality of presentation templates.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of incorporating into the presentation template information on each healthcare procedure included in a recommended course of treatment includes the steps of:

obtaining a healthcare procedure included in the recommended course of treatment;

retrieving a procedure information file for the obtained healthcare procedure, the procedure information file including information on the obtained healthcare procedure;

inserting the procedure information file for the obtained healthcare procedure into the presentation template; and

repeating said steps of obtaining a healthcare procedure, retrieving a procedure information file for the obtained healthcare procedure and inserting the procedure information file, for each healthcare procedure in the recommended course of treatment.

15. The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of editing, with the presentation tool, the information on the obtained healthcare procedure in the procedure information file prior to said step of retrieving the procedure information file for the obtained healthcare procedure.

16. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of incorporating healthcare information specific to the individual includes the steps of:

scanning the intermediate presentation for a marker, the marker identifying healthcare information specific to the individual and the marker identifying an insertion point in the intermediate presentation for the healthcare information specific to the individual;

retrieving the healthcare information specific to the individual identified by the marker from the healthcare desktop application;

inserting the retrieved healthcare information specific to the individual into the intermediate presentation at the insertion point identified by the marker; and

repeating the steps of scanning, retrieving and inserting for each marker in the intermediate presentation.

17. The method of claim 16 further comprising the steps of:

adding a plug-in tool bar to the presentation tool, the plug-in tool bar enabling information to be exchanged between the healthcare desktop application and the presentation tool;

modifying, with the plug-in tool bar in the presentation tool, the presentation template and the information on each healthcare procedure included in a recommended course of treatment to include at least one marker prior to said step of scanning the intermediate presentation.

18. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of storing the final presentation in the healthcare desktop application includes the step of integrating the final presentation into healthcare desktop application records for the individual.

19. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

presenting the final presentation to the individual with the presentation tool;

indicating in the presentation tool at least one healthcare procedure of the recommended course of treatment accepted by the individual; and

updating records of the individual in the healthcare desktop application to correspond to the indicated at least one healthcare procedure accepted by the individual in the presentation tool.

20. A computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium and executable by a computer for generating a presentation describing a recommended course of treatment of at least one healthcare procedure for an individual, the computer program product comprising computer instructions for executing the steps of:

selecting a presentation template for a presentation, the presentation template being configured for display by a presentation tool;

incorporating information on each healthcare procedure included in a recommended course of treatment for an individual into the presentation template to generate an intermediate presentation;

incorporating healthcare information specific to the individual from a healthcare desktop application into the intermediate presentation to generate a final presentation; and

storing the final presentation in the healthcare desktop application.

21. The computer program product of claim 20 further comprising computer instructions for executing a step of initiating with a single action said steps of selecting a presentation template, incorporating information on each healthcare procedure, incorporating healthcare information specific to the individual and storing the final presentation.

22. The computer program product of claim 20 further comprising computer instructions for executing the steps of:

starting the presentation tool, the presentation tool being configured to create, modify and display presentations; and

loading the selected presentation template into the presentation tool.

23. The computer program product of claim 22 further comprising computer instructions for executing the steps of:

adding a plug-in tool bar to the presentation tool, the plug-in tool bar enabling information to be exchanged between the healthcare desktop application and the presentation tool; and

editing the final presentation with the plug-in tool bar in the presentation tool.

24. The computer program product of claim 23 wherein said step of editing the final presentation includes the step of adding additional healthcare information specific to the individual from the healthcare desktop application to the final presentation.

25. The computer program product of claim 23 wherein said step of editing the final presentation includes at least one of the steps of:

- adding other information to the final presentation;
- removing information from the final presentation; and
- changing information in the final presentation.

26. The computer program product of claim 20 further comprising computer instructions for executing the steps of:

generating a list of recommended healthcare procedures for the individual, the recommended healthcare procedures having been previously entered into the healthcare desktop application as being recommended for the individual; and

selecting at least one recommended healthcare procedure from the list of recommended healthcare procedures for inclusion in the recommended course of treatment.

27. The computer program product of claim 26 further comprising computer instructions for executing the step of automatically selecting, by the healthcare desktop application, all recommended healthcare procedures in the list of recommended healthcare procedures for inclusion in the recommended course of treatment.

28. The computer program product of claim 26 further comprising computer instructions for executing the step of indicating in the list of recommended healthcare procedures the selected at least one recommended healthcare procedure for inclusion in the recommended course of treatment.

29. The computer program product of claim 20 further comprising computer instructions for executing the steps of:

including in the presentation template general information and an indicator indicating a point of incorporation for the information on each healthcare procedure included in the recommended course of treatment; and

inserting at the indicator in the presentation template the information on each healthcare procedure included in the recommended course of treatment.

30. The computer program product of claim 29 further comprising computer instructions for executing the step of modifying the presentation template including the general information and the indicator with the presentation tool prior to said step of selecting the presentation template.

31. The computer program product of claim 20 wherein said step of selecting a presentation template includes automatically selecting the presentation template by the healthcare desktop application.

32. The computer program product of claim 20 wherein said step of selecting a presentation template includes the steps of:

generating a plurality of presentation templates with the presentation tool, each presentation template of the plurality of presentation templates being configured for a different type of presentation;

displaying a list of the plurality of presentation templates in the healthcare desktop application; and

selecting the presentation template from the displayed list of the plurality of presentation templates.

33. The computer program product of claim 20 wherein said step of incorporating into the presentation template information on each healthcare procedure included in a recommended course of treatment includes the steps of:

obtaining a healthcare procedure included in the recommended course of treatment;

retrieving a procedure information file for the obtained healthcare procedure, the procedure information file including information on the obtained healthcare procedure;

inserting the procedure information file for the obtained healthcare procedure into the presentation template; and

repeating said steps of obtaining a healthcare procedure, retrieving a procedure information file for the obtained healthcare procedure and inserting the procedure information file, for each healthcare procedure in the recommended course of treatment.

34. The computer program product of claim 33 further comprising computer instructions for executing the step of editing, with the presentation tool, the information on the obtained healthcare procedure in the procedure information file prior to said step of retrieving the procedure information file for the obtained healthcare procedure.

35. The computer program product of claim 20 wherein the step of incorporating healthcare information specific to the individual includes the steps of:

scanning the intermediate presentation for a marker, the marker identifying healthcare information specific to the individual and the marker identifying an insertion point in the intermediate presentation for the healthcare information specific to the individual;

retrieving the healthcare information specific to the individual identified by the marker from the healthcare desktop application;

inserting the retrieved healthcare information specific to the individual into the intermediate presentation at the insertion point identified by the marker; and

repeating the steps of scanning, retrieving and inserting for each marker in the intermediate presentation.

36. The computer program product of claim 35 further comprising computer instructions for executing the steps of:

adding a plug-in tool bar to the presentation tool, the plug-in tool bar enabling information to be exchanged between the healthcare desktop application and the presentation tool;

modifying, with the plug-in tool bar in the presentation tool, the presentation template and the information on each healthcare procedure included in a recommended

course of treatment to include at least one marker prior to said step of scanning the intermediate presentation.

37. The computer program product of claim 20 wherein the step of storing the final presentation in the healthcare desktop application includes the step of integrating the final presentation into healthcare desktop application records for the individual.

38. The computer program product of claim 20 further comprising computer instructions for executing the steps of:

presenting the final presentation to the individual with the presentation tool;

indicating in the presentation tool at least one healthcare procedure of the recommended course of treatment accepted by the individual; and

updating records of the individual in the healthcare desktop application to correspond to the indicated at least one healthcare procedure accepted by the individual in the presentation tool.

39. A system for generating and displaying a presentation describing a recommended course of treatment of at least one healthcare procedure for a patient, the system comprising:

at least one computer, said at least one computer comprising at least one memory device, a healthcare desktop application stored in said at least one memory device and a presentation tool stored in said at least one memory device;

means for selecting a presentation template for a presentation, said presentation template including at least one slide being configured for display by said presentation tool;

means for incorporating at least one slide having information on at least one healthcare procedure included in a recommended course of treatment for a patient into said presentation template to generate an intermediate presentation, said intermediate presentation including a plurality of slides being configured for display by said presentation tool;

means for incorporating patient specific healthcare information from said healthcare desktop application into said plurality of slides of said intermediate

presentation to generate a final presentation including a plurality of slides being configured for display by said presentation tool; and

means for storing said final presentation in said at least one memory device.

40. The system of claim 39 further comprising means for executing with a single action said means for selecting a presentation template, said means for incorporating at least one slide having information on at least one healthcare procedure, said means for incorporating patient specific healthcare information, and said means for storing said final presentation.

41. The system of claim 39 further comprising:

    said presentation tool comprising means for creating a presentation, means for modifying a presentation and means for displaying a presentation;

    means for executing said presentation tool; and

    means for loading said selected presentation template into said presentation tool.

42. The system of claim 41 further comprising:

    means for adding a plug-in tool bar to said presentation tool, said plug-in tool bar comprising means for enabling an exchange of information between said healthcare desktop application and said presentation tool; and

    means for modifying said plurality of slides of said final presentation with said plug-in tool bar added to said presentation tool.

43. The system of claim 42 wherein said means for modifying said plurality of slides of said final presentation comprises means for adding additional patient specific healthcare information from said healthcare desktop application to said plurality of slides of said final presentation.

44. The system of claim 42 wherein said means for modifying said plurality of slides of said final presentation comprises:

    means for adding other information to said plurality of slides of said final presentation;

    means for removing information from said plurality of slides of said final presentation; and

means for changing information in said plurality of slides of said final presentation.

45. The system of claim 39 wherein said healthcare desktop application comprises means for automatically selecting said presentation template.

46. The system of claim 39 further comprising:

means for generating a list of recommended healthcare procedures for said patient, said recommended healthcare procedures having been previously entered into said healthcare desktop application for said patient; and

means for selecting at least one recommended healthcare procedure from said list of recommended healthcare procedures for inclusion in said recommended course of treatment.

47. The system of claim 46 wherein said healthcare desktop application comprises means for automatically selecting all recommended healthcare procedures in said list of recommended healthcare procedures for inclusion in said recommended course of treatment.

48. The system of claim 46 further comprising means for indicating said selected at least one recommended healthcare procedure for inclusion in said recommended course of treatment in said list of recommended healthcare procedures.

49. The system of claim 39 further comprising:

said at least one slide of said presentation template comprising an indicator, said indicator being configured to indicate a point of incorporation for said at least one slide having information on at least one healthcare procedure included in a recommended course of treatment; and

means for inserting at said indicator in said at least one slide in said presentation template said at least one slide having information on at least one healthcare procedure included in a recommended course of treatment.

50. The system of claim 49 wherein said presentation tool comprises:

a plug-in tool bar, said plug-in tool bar comprising means for enabling an exchange of information between said healthcare desktop application and said presentation tool; and

means for modifying said at least one slide of said presentation template with said plug-in tool bar.

51. The system of claim 39 wherein:

said presentation tool comprises means for generating a plurality of presentation templates, each presentation template of said plurality of presentation templates being configured for a different type of presentation; and

said means for selecting a presentation template comprises means for displaying a list of said plurality of presentation templates in said healthcare desktop application and means for selecting said presentation template from said displayed list of said plurality of presentation templates.

52. The system of claim 39 wherein said means for incorporating at least one slide having information on at least one healthcare procedure comprises:

means for obtaining a healthcare procedure included in said recommended course of treatment;

means for retrieving a procedure information file for said obtained healthcare procedure, said procedure information file comprising at least one slide including information on said obtained healthcare procedure; and

means for inserting said at least one slide of said procedure information file for said obtained healthcare procedure into said presentation template.

53. The system of claim 52 wherein said presentation tool comprises:

a plug-in tool bar, said plug-in tool bar comprising means for enabling an exchange of information between said healthcare desktop application and said presentation tool; and

means for editing said at least one slide including information on said obtained healthcare procedure in said procedure information file with said plug-in tool bar.

54. The system of claim 39 wherein said means for incorporating patient specific healthcare information from said healthcare desktop application comprises:

means for scanning said intermediate presentation for a marker, said marker identifying healthcare information specific to said patient and said marker identifying an insertion point in said intermediate presentation for said healthcare information specific to said patient;

means for retrieving said healthcare information specific to said patient identified by said marker from said healthcare desktop application; and

means for inserting said retrieved healthcare information specific to said patient into said intermediate presentation at said insertion point identified by said marker.

55. The system of claim 54 wherein said presentation tool comprises:

a plug-in tool bar, said plug-in tool bar comprising means for enabling an exchange of information between said healthcare desktop application and said presentation tool; and

means for modifying said at least one slide of said presentation template and said at least one slide having information on at least one healthcare procedure to include at least one marker.

56. The system of claim 39 wherein said means for storing the final presentation in the said at least one memory device comprises means for integrating said final presentation into healthcare desktop application records for said patient.

57. The system of claim 39 further comprises:

said presentation tool comprises means for presenting said final presentation to said patient and means for indicating at least one healthcare procedure of said recommended course of treatment accepted by said patient; and

means for updating records in said healthcare desktop application to correspond to said indicated at least one healthcare procedure accepted by said patient.

58. The system of claim 39 wherein said at least one slide of said presentation template comprises information on at least one of a name and address of a healthcare practice, a list of

services offered by said healthcare practice, a description of infection control procedures and general payment policies.

59. The system of claim 39 wherein:

said healthcare desktop application comprises a database, said database including clinical and financial information for said patient;

said means for incorporating patient specific healthcare information from said healthcare desktop application comprises means for inserting said clinical and financial information for said patient into said intermediate presentation; and

said clinical and financial information for said patient includes at least one of a name, an address, a picture, a chart and an insurance carrier.

60. The system of claim 39 wherein said healthcare desktop application comprises a dental practice management application.